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GREAT HARWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1944.

G R E A T H A R W O O D

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

A N D

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

F O R T H E Y E A R

1 9 4 4

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Chairman - Councillor Mrs. G.M. Boardman, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Part Time)

J.K. Cumming, M.B., Ch.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

(Also a qualified Meat Inspector)

A. Smithson, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR

(Lancashire County Council)

Nurse S. Gray, Retired on Superannuation
November, 1943.

Nurse Bullough appointed temporary
February 1944 to September, 1944.

Nurse Gilbert appointed September, 1944.

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

for the year 1944.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Great Harwood Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report of the health and sanitary administration of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1944.

The various rates in the report are based upon the Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1944.

The birth rate of 15.3 per thousand shows an increase of 0.6 on 1943, as compared with 17.6 for England and Wales.

143 deaths have been recorded giving a death rate of 13.7 per 1000 population as against 16.6 for last year. The death rate for England and Wales being 11.6

The Infantile Mortality rate was lower than last year, being 44 per 1000 live births. This is a decrease of 9 over last year, when the figure was 53 per 1000 live births. The figure for England and Wales was 46

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system is higher than last year, being 0.76 as against 0.4

Deaths from Cancer gave a rate of 1.63 which was lower than last year.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy during the year; except for the prevalence of Pharyngitis during the year, otherwise the general health of the district, despite five years of war-time conditions, remains satisfactory.

Immunisation against diphtheria has continued satisfactorily throughout the year.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

The essential work of the Health Department has been fully maintained despite the war.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee, the Sanitary Inspector and other Officials for their valuable assistance.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.K. Cumming.

Medical Officer of Health

14th August, 1945.

S T A T I S T I C S.

Area in acres.	2,868
Number of inhabited houses (a) Census, 1931	3,573
(b) End of 1944	3,680
Ratable Value	£62,235
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£240
Population - Census 1931	12,786
Registrar Generals Estimate of population 1944.	10,400

	<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births. (Legitimate	151	81	70	
(Illegitimate	8	3	5	
	<u>159</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>75</u>	
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population -				15.3
Still Births. (Legitimate	2	2	-	
(Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	
Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.				12.4

	<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	6	2	4	
" (Other Forms)	2	0	2	
Influenza.	1	1	0	
Cancer, all forms.	17	7	10	
Diabetes.	1	1	0	
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	16	8	8	
Heart disease.	46	18	28	
Other diseases of circulatory system.	1	0	1	
Bronchitis.	8	6	2	
Pneumonia	6	3	3	
Other respiratory diseases.	1	0	1	
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	1	1	0	
Appendicitis	1	0	1	
Other Digestive diseases.	4	2	2	
Nephritis.	1	1	0	
Congenital debility and malformation etc.	3	1	2	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).	1	1	0	
Suicide	1	0	1	
Road traffic accidents.	3	2	1	
Other violent causes.	6	3	3	
All other causes.	17	6	11	
	<u>143</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>80</u>	

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. 13.7

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	1	1	0
	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.	44
(Death rate for England and Wales 46)	
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	50
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	125

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, with the exception of sputum examinations for Tuberculosis, these being examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Accrington.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases - Provided by Isolation Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious cases - Owned by Council.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the home is carried out by the District Nursing Association.

Midwives.

The Midwives Act, 1936 is administered by the Lancashire County Council, who employ two midwives in the district.

Hospital Accommodation.

General.

There are no Public or Voluntary hospitals in the district. The majority of cases are treated at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.

Smallpox.

Finnington Hospital, Blackburn.

Other infectious Diseases.

Isolation hospitals in adjoining districts where accommodation available.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Day Nursery, Antenatal School, Orthopaedic and Artificial Light Clinics are all under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied to all premises within a reasonable distance of the water mains by the Accrington District Gas and Water Board.

The water is moderately soft and has no plumbo-solvent action.

Samples are regularly taken by the Board for bacteriological and chemical examination.

The quality and quantity of the water has been well maintained during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension of the sewerage system during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

These are under the control of the Lancashire County Council, Rivers Board.

Shops and Offices.

No action was taken under the shops act, 1934 or the Public Health Act, 1936.

Schools.

It has not been necessary to close any school on account of the occurrence of infectious disease.

Offensive Trades.

There is one Rag and Bone Dealer in the district. It is situated well away from the built-up area and no complaints have been received.

Swimming Baths.

The district does not possess any public or private owned swimming baths.

HOUSING.

Housing conditions still remain fairly satisfactory despite the difficulty of labour and materials. Several houses have been rendered fit during the year.

Although there is very little overcrowding, as defined in the Housing Act, 1936, there are several cases where sex separation is unsatisfactory due to the present shortage of houses.

SCABIES.

Arrangements are now made for the treatment of Scabies by Temporary Nurses at the Council's own baths at the Town's yard.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

90 Children were immunised during the year, of these 77 were between 1 and 5 years and 13 between 5 and 15 years.

The approximate total of all children immunised in the district now is :-

Under 5 years of age.	43%
Between 5 and 15 years of age.	89%

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

(Other than Tuberculosis.)

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												HOSPITAL.		
	Total cases at all ages.	Age Periods - Years.										TOTAL DEATHS.	Total cases removed to hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.	
		Under 1.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-				45-
Whooping Cough.	1	1													
Acute Pneumonia.	3				1							2		6	
Measles.	1				1										
Scarlet Fever	20			1	1	2	8	5		3				3	
TOTAL	25	1	-	1	3	2	8	5	-	3	-	2	-	6	3

There were no cases of Erysipelas, Diphtheria, Puerperal Pyrexia, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1944.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respir'y		Non-Respir'y		Respir'y		Non-Respir'y	
YEARS.	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1								
1 - 5				1				1
5 - 10			1	1				
10 - 15				1				1
15 - 20		2				1		
20 - 25		2				2		
25 - 35	1				1	1		
35 - 45				1	1			
45 - 55								
55 - 65								
65 & over.								
Total.	1	4	1	4	2	4	0	2

Death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System being 0.76 per thousand population.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The notification of this disease is satisfactory.

The number of cases on the register at the 31st December was:-

Pulmonary.	M.	13	}	19	}	42.
"	F	6				
Non-Pulmonary	M	16	}	23		
"	F	7				

Report of the Sanitary Inspector
To the Medical Officer of Health
For the Year ended 31st December, 1944

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the District during the year ended 31st December, 1944.

Classified List of Inspections and Visits

Dwelling houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts; including re-visits.	442
<u>Milk Supply:-</u>	
Cowsheds and Dairies	106
Milk Samples.	59
<u>Food Supply:-</u>	
Slaughterhouses.	76
Butchers Shops and Food Premises	31
Fish Friers	13
Bakehouses	43
Market	41
Water Supplies.	3
" Samples	11
Factories	42
Shops	8
Cinemas	2
Infectious Diseases	27
Schools	4
Scabies	24
Rats and Mice	320
Verminous Premises	34
Refuse Tip	74
Salvage	49
Closet Conversions	54
Pail Closets	14
Ash-pits	32
Septic Tanks and Cesspools	5
Public Conveniences	31
Interviews with Owners and Contractors.	76
Drains examined and tested	16
Various	64
<u>Disinfections</u>	
Rooms	54
Books	19
Bedding (steam disinfected)	2
Choked drains and closets released	739
Complaints	72

Sanitary Inspections

Number of premises visited	273
" " inspections and revisits	442
" " defects or nuisances discovered	261
" " " " abated	230
" " Notices served - informal	261
" " " " statutory.	10
" " Legal proceedings	-

Water Supplies

Ten samples of water were taken from private supplies for bacteriological examination, of which three were found to be unsatisfactory.

Inspections were made of these supplies and in each case the construction of the wells and storage tanks were found to be defective. The work of repairing and reconstructing same were being carried out by the end of the year.

One sample from the mains supply was taken and found to satisfy the Ministry of Health's standards.

Milk Supply

Number of dairy farms.	19
Number of dairymen.	6
Approximate number of cows	400
Number of inspections	106

The work in connection with providing a safe and clean milk supply has been well maintained, during the year.

Regular inspections of the cowsheds and dairies together with milk sampling have been carried out.

The general standard of the buildings, with few exceptions, are satisfactory.

The number of licensed producers of "Accredited" milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941, have increased from three to seven.

Fifty three samples of milk have been taken for the Methylene Blue test of which thirty five satisfied the requirements, also thirty seven for tuberculosis of which one was found to contain tubercle bacilli.

In addition six samples of milk, as supplied to the local schools, were taken on behalf of the County Council for the presence of tubercle bacilli, and twenty one samples were taken by the County Council under the Foods and Drugs Act for adulteration, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods

All meat received in the district is still obtained from the Ministry of Food's Regional Slaughterhouse at Accrington.

Seventy six visits were made to the private slaughterhouse (attached to the Bacon and Ham Factory), when 1464 pigs were examined, of which, the following were found to be unsound:-

Pigs Heads	33
" Lungs	326
" Livers	30
" Hearts	91

Other food premises were inspected from time to time and the following tinned and loose foods were voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

	CWTS	QRS.	LBS	OZS
Pork Luncheon Meat		1	8	8
Tongue			6	0
Casserole Steak			5	0
Pilchards, Shrimps - Sardines		2	20	10
Salmon			3	8
Flour	4	0	0	0
Rolled Bacon		1	3	8
Sultanas		1	2	0
Evaporated Milk			2	13
Various			14	12
	5	3	10	11

Factories

Forty two inspections were made during the year and the following defects found:-

Want of Cleanliness	7
Defective fittings etc.	8
Absence of indication notices	1
" " an intervening ventilated space	1
Inadequate lighting	1

At the close of the year, the rebuilding of two suites of sanitary conveniences at one of the cotton mills with the installation of individual flush - type fresh water closets in lieu of the trough-type closets, was in hand.

Bakehouses

The number of bakehouses on the register is 34 including one basement bakehouse. Forty three inspections were made thereto and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation

Thirty eight waste water and three pail closets were converted during the year.

Pail closets are emptied weekly by the department.

The number of various closets in the district is as follows:-

Fresh Water Closets	1201
Waste " "	2458
Pail Closets	36

Public Lavatories

There are four public conveniences which are cleansed daily.

Public Cleansing

The refuse collection service has been well maintained during the year, dustbins have been emptied weekly and ash-pits approximately monthly.

Collection is by means of two covered "Dennis" refuse vehicles and disposed of entirely by controlled tipping which is an economical method of disposal.

Although 28 ash-pits were abolished during the year and dustbins provided in lieu thereof, there are still 591 ash-pits in the district - these should be abolished as soon as practicable in order to bring the standard of refuse storage and collection to modern standards.

207 defective dustbins and other unsuitable receptacles were replaced.

Approximate number of dustbins	2936
" " " ash-pits	591

Street Cleansing

The Health Department is responsible for the cleansing of the main roads and streets - mainroads and streets are swept daily and side streets weekly.

The work entailed in the weeding of the streets during the summer months necessitates considerable time and expense. It would be economical to the Council and at the same time, a benefit in helping to keep the streets cleaner by proceeding as soon as the opportunity permits, in the work of the regrouting of certain paved sett streets, which was commenced during the year.

Street gullies are emptied regularly to avoid nuisances being created, from their overflowing.

Salvage

Details of salvage collected and sold during 1944.

	TONS	CWTS	QRS	LBS	DOZ.	BINS	£	s	d
Waste Paper, Books, etc.	65	0	1	5			408	12	7
Textiles	3	19	0	11			45	6	1
Scrap Iron	17	15	0	0			32	15	4
Aluminum		3	0	24			7	13	10
Brass and Copper		6	0	11			7	16	1
Lead and Zinc		5	2	15			4	12	1
Rubber		13	3	0			1	17	10
Bones	1	5	2	22			6	2	1
Glass Bottles, Jars and Cullet.	4	8	2	0	625 $\frac{1}{2}$		18	2	3
Kitchen Waste	78	14	0	0		2938	73	9	0
	172	11	1	4	625 $\frac{1}{2}$	2938	606	7	2
Books sent to H.M. Forces	(226)	1	2	0	Value			13	6
TOTAL	172	12	3	4	625 $\frac{1}{2}$	2938	607	0	8
Decrease on 1943	41	11	2	12			£170	5	2

Pestology

Eradication of Bed-bugs

Three houses were disinfested by the department for bed-bug infestation.

Rats and Mice

The survey under the Infestation Order, 1943 was completed and the important work of disinfestation of houses and business premises was energetically carried out. Immediate attention was given to each rodent complaint received during the year.

The whole of the Council's sewers were treated on two occasions and it was estimated that approximately 423 rats had been destroyed.

In conclusion, I desire to thank you for the help you have given to me during the year, the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Heads of other department, and the members of my staff for their helpful co-operation at all time.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. SMITHSON.

Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent,

14th June, 1945.

